



Enclosure 2a
May 15, 2018

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
April 24, 2018

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, noted for the record that Chair Cottam and Council Member Gaines would not be joining the meeting, declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present: Daniel McConaghy, *Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

Absent: Barbara Cottam and Jo Eva Gaines

* Arrived at 5:35 p.m.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the April 24, 2018, Meeting

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Karen Davis, and Marta Martinez

NAYS: 0

[Member Beretta arrived after the acceptance of the agenda.]

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the March 6, 2018, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the minutes of the March 6, 2018, Meeting

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis,
Gara Field, Karen Davis, and Marta Martinez

NAYS: 0

[Member Beretta arrived after the approval of the minutes.]

b. Minutes of the March 27, 2018, Work Session

On a motion duly made by Lawrence Purtill and seconded by Karen Davis, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the minutes of the March 27, 2018, Work Session

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Daniel McConaghy, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis,
Gara Field, Karen Davis, and Marta Martinez

NAYS: 0

[Member Beretta arrived after the approval of the minutes.]

3. OPEN FORUM

Chair McConaghy noted for the record that no one signed-up for Open Forum.

4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

In the interest of time, Commissioner Wagner gave a brief update on some stats that were released since the Council last met:

- Rhode Island's early learning programs continue to be recognized as best in nation in terms of meeting all of the quality indicators by national standard. Although program quality is high, there are still some access challenges.
- The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) results have been flat pretty much across the country. Rhode Island's results have been consistent with the rest of the country, with one exception, grade 8th mathematics declined by four-percentage points.
- Rhode Island's graduation rate of 84.1% saw an increase of 1.3 percentage points. Although there is still work to do to ensure that students not only graduate, but graduate prepared, the good news is that many of the subgroups increased (with the exception of English language learners) at greater rates than the overall graduation rate.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. RI Standards for Computer Science – Request for Council Endorsement

Commissioner Wagner framed the conversation by sharing that lots of work has been done around providing access to computer science programming and offering it at every school in the state. Lots of work still needs to be done and having state-level standards that are closely aligned with the nationally recognized, K-12 Computer Science Standards, in place, will help keep that work moving forward.

Next, Vic Fay-Wolfe, the Computer Science for RI (CS4RI) Project Lead and faculty member at the University of Rhode Island, gave an overview of the CS4RI initiative. He explained that it is a goal of Governor Raimondo to double, by 2025, the number of students who graduate from the Rhode Island public institutions for postsecondary education, with computer science degrees. He then turned the conversation over to Dr. Carol Giuriceo, Director of the RI STEAM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Center at R.I. College, who spearheaded the development of the Computer Science Standards.

Dr. Giuriceo shared that the STEAM Center was established in 2008 as an educational hub for the State to bring many different sectors (K-12, postsecondary, business and industry, etc.) to work together to increase awareness in STEAM literacy. The RI Standards for Computer Science stems from then President Obama's Computer Science for All movement of 2016, and were created as pathways for students to follow and to generate sustainable programs. In 2017, the Computer Science Education Advisory Committee, representing a broad range of expertise (educators from PK and postsecondary education, business and industry specialists, and media specialists), was created and contributed to the development of the standards. Additionally, a Review Team composed of Rhode Islanders active in education and industry provided feedback to the draft standards.

Dr. Giuriceo ended the presentation by going over the plans for implementation once the Council endorses the standards:

- Ask content providers to align their curriculum with the Computer Science Education Standards for RI;
- Partner with the Computer Science Teachers Association of RI to develop strong communities of practice to support teachers;
- Provide online resources (toolkit) and support; and
- Hold district workshops this summer based on a national script model.

Council members complimented the quality of the work and stressed the importance of ensuring that the standards are widely disseminated and made available to all teachers.

b. Proposed Revisions to the Regulations Governing the Certification of Educators in Rhode Island – First Read by the Council

Commissioner Wagner framed the conversation and noted that in the redlined version of the regulations there are big sections that are just the addition of updated standards previously approved by the Council. He then turned the conversation over to Lisa Foehr, RIDE's Director of Educator Excellence & Certification Services.

Ms. Foehr began the presentation by sharing that in the engagement front, during the fall and winter of 2017, RIDE did a series of engagement opportunities to share the proposed concepts with the field. RIDE also recently hosted some webinars targeted at engaging some of the smaller professional associations and invited them to join the discussions and provide feedback. She re-emphasized that the focus has been on opportunities and pathways, and creating coherence with the state's policies across the board for teachers and students.

Ms. Foehr went over a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed updates, which fall in four buckets:

- **Ensure new teachers are ready for Day 1 of teaching;**
 - A yearlong teacher practice residency requirement in place of the current semester-long requirement. This requirement would become effective in 3 years.

Council Members shared their concerns with student teachers not being paid for the yearlong residencies as well as finding enough placements that are yearlong when the institutions of postsecondary education are currently finding it a challenge to place student teachers. They also expressed that this unfunded mandate puts an unfair burden on poor students in inner cities, while our goal is to attract more teachers of color and cultural and economic background as the students they are teaching.

- Allow schools to hire "substitute" teachers who have at least two-years of college and are on track for a four-year degree.
- **Provide more opportunities for schools and teachers to find the right employment match;**
 - Unilateral reciprocity for teachers certified to teach in MA and CT, with the exception of special certificate dependencies, which will still be required to teach in different content areas.

Council Members expressed the need to have out-of-state teacher candidates follow the same protocols for criminal background checks as Rhode Island teachers do.

- If a school nurse is not going to be a classroom teacher, schools will be able to hire a certified registered nurse teacher rather than an instructional certified school nurse-teacher.
- Expanding Options for School Business Administrators
 - By identifying school business administrator as a shortage area, districts will be able to increase the candidate pool of skilled finance experts.

Commissioner Wagner expressed that none of these are required, but rather meant to provide district with an increased pool of candidates that they can take advantage of if they so choose.

- Shortage Areas – Individuals would have to show their subject matter expertise, upfront, through RIDE's current subject matter assessments that are required for certification.
 - A district would be able to invest in the development of a teacher, especially when hiring in shortage areas. Similar to career and technical education, teachers would have a 7-year window to meet certification requirements in a shortage area, with a renewal at the 3-year mark.
 - Cultural competence, which hasn't been defined, would be identified as a shortage area and the same 7-year window process in order to meet full certification, would apply.
- Career and Technical Education Teacher Pathways would align to industry requirements.
 - Move the timing of the assessment to coincide with the 3-year renewal mark.
 - RIDE would create some flexibility in the system by recognizing bachelor degrees in the CTE areas and waiving subject matter assessments.

Council Members cautioned, that with all the flexibilities, it is necessary to be very careful about de-professionalizing the teaching profession at large and be cognizant of how the messaging will be interpreted.

- **Build educator professional learning pathways, in part based on SurveyWorks data**
 - Would include endorsements added to certificates that help individuals demonstrate a specific set of expertise or additional knowledge and skills that they have gained. These will be built over time with the first two areas focused on supporting English Learners and Reading/Dyslexia endorsements.

- Introduce an ongoing professional learning requirement for the renewal of teaching certificates and build an ecosystem of qualified service providers.
 - Districts will have the first opportunity to look and see what is available and make some decisions about the kinds of professional learning that they can offer as a district.
 - Superintendents will have the authority of approving professional learning and RIDE can support offerings through an “educator course network” for educators, similar to the advanced course network for students.

Council Members cautioned about adding unfunded requirements that some districts may not have the capacity to take on.

- Other program and technical updates

At this time, Council Members suggested moving on to the other items on the agenda and scheduling a special work session dedicated to the discussion of the proposed changes to the regulations.

c. Providence Public Schools Conversation Follow-up

Commissioner Wagner gave a recap of where things stand with the Providence engagement, and asked the Council’s permission to engage with Providence on the following six key measures:

- Graduation Rates
- 3rd Grade Literacy
- Staffing & Talent Management
- English Language Proficiency
- Teaching and Learning
- Procurement

d. Necessity of School Construction Projects

- Compass School
- East Providence
- Jamestown
- North Kingstown
- North Smithfield
- RISE Prep
- Smithfield
- Warwick
- West Warwick

Commissioner Wagner introduced the topic by sharing that of the billion dollar investment that is in various stages of work, the nine projects being discussed this evening, which culminates reviews by RIDE and the School Building Authority, are the first to get across the beginning line in that context.

Cindy Brown, RIDE's Director of Statewide Efficiencies, went over the nine projects, representing 56 schools, at a cost totaling around \$283.6M, with a state share identified at around \$127.6M.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Appeals Committee Recommendation – Newport Community School v. Middletown School Committee and Tiverton School Committee

On a motion duly made by Amy Beretta and seconded by Colleen Callahan, it was

VOTED: That on the matter of Newport Community School v. Middletown School Committee and Tiverton School Committee, the Commissioner's Decision is upheld.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 7

NAYS: 0

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Karen Davis and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education adjourns.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Daniel McConaghy, Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Marta Martinez, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 7

NAYS: 0